

**MMA Testimony on HB 4603
House Health Policy Committee
June 22, 2011**

Thank you Madame Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Delaney Newberry and I am Director of Human Resource Policy for the Michigan Manufacturers Association. We are opposed to House Bill 4603 because of the impact it will have on the cost of health insurance.

MMA represents about 2,500 members that operate in the full spectrum of manufacturing industries, ranging from small manufacturers to some of the world's largest corporations. Manufacturing continues to be the largest sector of our economy, directly employing over 500,000 Michigan residents.

Manufacturers are one of the largest payers of private insurance and group health plans. In fact, 91% of manufacturers offer health care benefits to their employees. Cost containment while maintaining quality of care is a primary policy concern of MMA.

We have concerns about the expansion of the scope of practice contained in HB 4603, which eliminates the requirement that a prescription be issued for a person to engage in physical therapy treatment. Such a change in law will work to increase utilization rates and will ultimately increase health insurance costs.

We greatly appreciate Representative O'Brien's willingness to listen to our concerns and look forward to working with her to identify possible alternatives. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding this or any other matter.